

Application No. 10/089858

Docket No.: 10096-00002-US

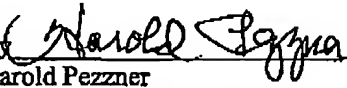
REMARKS

This application has been carefully studied and amended in view of the Office Action dated August 22, 2006. Reconsideration of that action is requested in view of the following.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 are patentable over Houser. In the Office Action Examiner Ho pointed out that "In order to achieve this advantage of the invention, the security module according to claim 1 contains the characteristic that the output value of the combination machine (K2) is used to form an irreversible hash and that hash value is output from the outlet valve. These characteristics are not found in Houser which proposes a usage of digital signature algorithms for securing data." The Office Action then continued, "The Examiner contends that regardless of the advantages Applicant's invention may or may not provide, the claims must be written in such a way as to claim those particular limitations and must not be broad to the extent that it reads upon existing prior art." In view of the above comments by Examiner Ho independent claims 1 and 3 have now been amended to recite the characteristic of "the output value of the combination machine is used to form an irreversible hash and that hash value is output from the outlet valve".

Since the claims now recite the features which Examiner Ho has pointed out are not found in Houser, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 should be allowed and that this application should be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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